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PROGRAM

Good Morning America

STATION WJLA TV

ABC Network

DATE

May 28, 1980

7:00 AM

CITY

Washington, DC

SUBJECT

Terrorism and Nuclear Weapons

JACK ANDERSON: Intelligence reports tell of terrorist activity around the world. There'll be more bombings, kidnapings, and assassinations in the 1980s. The terrorists may strike anytime, anywhere.

But there is one terrorist threat that worries intelligence experts above all the others. It's mentioned only in secret reports. This morning I'm going to read a few excerpts from one secret document. It was prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency. It's called "The Likelihood of the Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons by Foreign Terrorist Groups for Use Against the United States." That's right. The CIA warns that terrorists will try to get their hands on nuclear weapons. The report also warns that they'll try to steal U.S. nukes from our overseas arsenal.

Now, I'm making this public this morning because our military leaders don't seem to be heeding the warning. Hopefully, a little publicity will get better result.

Now let me read from the secret report. It points out that foreign terrorist groups have had little success and have shown little inclination to operate within the continental United States. Therefore, an attempt to seize a nuclear weapon is more likely abroad than here. This is true -- I'm still quoting -- not only because of the wide deployment of such weapons, but, more importantly, because of the great political importance assigned by terrorists to targets involving the U.S. presence abroad.

The CIA suggests that it would be easier for terrorists to steal British or French nuclear weapons. But the report says the symbolic effect would not be as dramatic as if a U.S. weapon

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had been involved.

The CIA also believes -- now let me read a final excerpt from the secret report -- that the terrorists would probably use nuclear weapons against the U.S. presence or against U.S. allies and U.S. interests, rather than against targets in the continental United States.